

Experimental Precipitation Potential Index

Part I – Mission Connection

- a. **Product Description** – The Precipitation Potential Index will display graphically on the internet. The graphic is a means to show forecaster expectations as to the location of precipitation at each hour across the CWA. It is intended to supplement the 12 hour POP and weather grids.
- b. **Purpose** – The purpose of this experimental web page graphic is to help the customers and partners in their decision making process. The 12 hour POP provides a statistical probability that a location will receive measurable precipitation sometime within the period. This will augment that field providing the forecasters with a forum to share their thoughts, by hour, as to area where precipitation will or will not be occurring within the 12 hour forecast period. All users, from the more sophisticated Emergency Managers to the general public, desire detailed information regarding the beginning and ending time of precipitation at their location for their decision making. The Experimental Precipitation Potential Index will enable the forecaster to provide an assessment about precipitation location as well as beginning and ending time of precipitation at each forecast hour across their CWA. On a daily basis, this will have economic benefits with the more efficient scheduling of activities across the CWA. During hazardous weather, it will allow for more efficient and timely planning and deployment of resources.
- c. **Audience** – The audience is any customer or partner in the WFO area, as well as those planning to enter or leave the WFO area, who would like hourly precipitation information.
- d. **Presentation Format** – All displays occur via the web page interface. Hourly Precipitation Potential Index values are displayed at each location and are color coded. The index value represents the forecaster expectation regarding whether or not precipitation will be occurring at that location at that hour. The index is a scale of 0 to 100 where 0 means no precipitation is expected to be occurring and 100 means that there is a complete certainty precipitation will be occurring. Forecasters create the graphics in GFE and then run a script to send over a PNG file to the WFO home page. A graphic exists for every hour.
- e. **Feedback Method** - We solicit feedback through the NWS Digital Feedback form, e-mail to the webmaster, or by traditional mail to:

National Weather Service
Attn: Alan Rezek
400 Parkway Road
Charleston, West Virginia 25309
Phone 304-746-0180

E-mail comments or questions can be sent to:
Alan.Rezek@noaa.gov

- f. **Example URL** – <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/rlx/ppi/>

Part II – Technical Description

- a. **Format and Science Basis** – This product was developed to provide customers enhanced weather forecast information in graphical form. The graphics are created in GFE using standard editing procedures with a 2.5 km resolution.
- b. **Availability** – The web page is available 24/7. The underlying graphics are updated as monitored weather conditions and new forecast information becomes available and indicates an update is warranted.
- c. **Additional Information** - Forecast output from this experimental product is not intended to substitute for the official forecasts. Rather, it is to be used as a supplement to the traditional product by users wishing to obtain more detailed information regarding the location, beginning and ending time of precipitation at a given location.

